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June 20, 2016

West Lafayette Go Greener Commission to host public educational tour of Food Finders Food Resource & Education Center and newly installed bioswale, native savannas, and rain gardens on June 28.

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. – Representatives from Food Finders Food Bank and Purdue University students will provide a tour of the new Food Finders Food Resource and Education Center (FREC), as well as the recently installed stormwater best management practices on Tuesday, June 28 from 7pm – 8pm at the FREC, 1204 Greenbush, Lafayette, IN. The event will be free and open to the public, with food and beverages served and a free rain barrel raffled off to attendees.

Last spring, an interdisciplinary team of Purdue students as part of an Environmental and Ecological Engineering course partnered with a local non-profit Wabash River Enhancement Corporation (WREC), and co-designed and installed native plant savannas, a bioswale, and rain gardens at FREC with Food Finders and GreenVision. This installation serves as an educational demonstration site for the local community.

Katy Bunder, CEO of Food Finders Food Bank, Inc., says “We are so pleased with the plan designed and implemented by the Environmental and Ecological Engineering students. It is lovely, enhances the neighborhood and beautifies our property, while helping to improve the Wabash River – a win-win for this neighborhood and all involved.” Bunder goes on to say, “the planning process was educational and a delight to see the student’s vision come to fruition.”

Natalie Gustafson, a student in the course and tour leader, praised the class as “an invaluable way to break down the barrier between the classroom and ‘outside world’ that seems to exist in traditional academia.”

The City of West Lafayette Go Greener Commission promotes environmental health in the community for present and future generations. This public information session will be the second in a 3-part series this summer. The third event will be held on July 26 at the Purdue Arboretum.

About Food Finders Food Resource and Education Center (FREC)

Food Finders Food Bank, Inc. is a nonprofit organization that has been dedicated to providing 16 counties in Indiana with food for member agencies, teaching the public about hunger, and being an advocate for the hungry, since 1981. The food bank distributes more than 7.5 million pounds of food annually. The newly opened FREC will function as a food pantry, an intake and

referral service for those needing to connect with other services, and will offer education classes on topics like budgeting, nutrition, and gardening. The Food Resources & Education Center includes a demonstration where community members will be shown how to maximize food resources often found at a food pantry to make a home cooked meal. The class of Purdue students is excited to be able to help landscape and improve the parking lot at this site to make it more inviting.

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